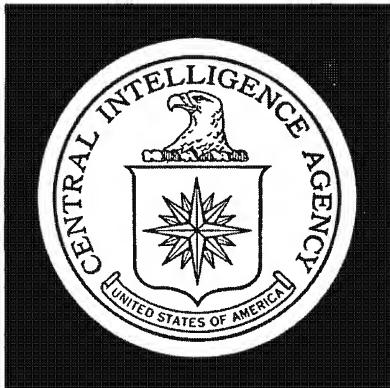


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C O N T E N T S

(Information as of 1200 EST)

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Situation report.

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GENERAL

Vietnam

Heavy fighting was reported in the western highlands on 6 and 7 November.

US forces fought a series of engagements with elements of two North Vietnamese regiments southwest of Dak To--a strategic Special Forces camp adjacent to enemy infiltration routes in Kontum Province. In the engagements 26 Americans were killed while enemy losses were set at 116 killed.

At Loc Ninh, the scene of heavy fighting last week, 18 US soldiers were killed and 38 wounded in engagements with enemy forces on 6 and 7 November. Communist propaganda,

meanwhile, continues to assert that the enemy attacks around Loc Ninh constitute retaliation for US air strikes on the Hanoi area and that it marks the opening of the "winter-spring" campaign in South Vietnam.

The intensity of the Communist propaganda on the subject suggests that the enemy hoped the attacks would carry maximum psychological impact. The Communists may believe they have been successful in demonstrating the difficulty under which allied forces still operate in providing sustained security for the populace in an area only some 72 miles from Saigon.

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